



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.7350 | FAX (517) 373.9228
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/

For Immediate Release
November 14, 2003

Contact: Bob Mauseth
517-373-7350

Patterson Plate Process Passes Senate

Lansing – A bill creating procedures for establishing and issuing fund-raising license plates sponsored by Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) was passed Thursday by the Senate.

Senate Bill 785 will prevent Michigan taxpayers from paying start-up costs for plates that may not sell and prevent confusion in the law enforcement community by requiring plates to meet a standard format.

“Michigan drivers like to support organizations by purchasing specialty plates,” Patterson said. “However, we need to control how these plates are created so taxpayers don’t pay the cost when plates don’t sell. This legislation helps taxpayers and provides safeguards by establishing criteria which organizations must meet in order for their specialty plate to move forward.”

The bill would:

- Require the Legislature to pass and the governor to sign a public act creating a new fundraising plate;
- Require plates meet the standard format (blue header bar with white ‘Michigan’ and logo at left);
- Require a nonrefundable, up-front payment of \$15,000 to cover start-up costs;
- Set minimum sales figures:
 - 2,000 in year one and 500 new plates (not renewals) each additional year;
 - plates would be discontinued if this threshold is not met;
 - renewals would continue even if sales were discontinued
- Allow current state university and state fund plates (e.g. Proud to be American) to be exempt from the sales minimum; and
- Allow for-profit logos to be used with authorization from the trademark’s owner, as long as proceeds go to a recognized non-profit.

The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

###